

Numeracy Tips

Numeracy is everywhere. When we use math skills in everyday situations, we are using numeracy. We use understanding of number, patterns, shape, and data to make informed decisions.

Visualization

Why is visualization important in numeracy?

- Numeracy allows us to acquire, create, connect and understand information. Thinking in pictures and images (visualizing) helps us to understand ideas and make connections.
- We can visualize concepts dealing with numbers, spatial information (connections between people, activities, and/or locations) and measurement. Visualizing helps us to make decisions in everyday life.
- Using manipulatives (physical objects) to represent thinking helps children understand relationships between items. Children gain a better understanding of numeracy relationships by using manipulatives to represent their thinking.

Find out more:

- Consider *Activities for Every Day* from Math For Families: Helping your child with math at home. Achieve BC: http://www.sd47.bc.ca/Programs/earlylearning/Documents/math_for_families.pdf
- Watch videos to find out more:
 - Alberta Education Numeracy Video <https://education.alberta.ca/literacy-and-numeracy/numeracy/everyone/numeracy-video/>
 - Alberta Education: 7 Processes - Visualization <https://education.alberta.ca/mathematics-7-9/program-supports/everyone/faq-s/>
- Read to find out what visualization involves: <https://education.alberta.ca/media/563590/visualization.pdf>

How can I help my child?

Together with your child, try these activities:

- Play homemade Pictionary®. Write out a number of items, books or toys. Have your child choose one and draw it. See if you can guess what their drawings are representing.
- Cut up a magazine picture in shapes and have your child put the picture back together.
- Make a model of something using wooden sticks, playing cards or paper.
- Play memory games using cards or objects.
- Build with blocks or Lego®. Help your child duplicate the structure.
- Make shapes using playdough. Try rolling it out into a log, then slice into two pieces, three pieces, etc. Compare the pieces.
- Paint a shape that would cover most of the paper, half of the paper, a little bit of the paper and then compare paintings.
- Play puzzle games like Tangrams: <http://www.abcya.com/tangrams.htm>
- Play Spot the Difference. Describe the differences between two nearly identical images including telling where to look in the pictures. This game can be played at: <http://www.spotthedifference.com/photogame.asp>
- Talk to your child's teacher about how numeracy is developed and practiced in the classroom.

Use our app EPSB Together

Download [EPSB Together](#), a free app that suggests activities you can do with your child to support your child's learning outside of the classroom. You can download the app on Google Play and the Apple App Store.